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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PER-01 SIG-01 A-01
MMO-01 EB-08 SCA-01 IO-13 INR-07 PM-04 CU-02
/069 W
----------291604Z 025484 /41
R 291130Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2362

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 PRAGUE 0805

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AMGT, PFOR, CZ
SUBJECT: ANNUAL POLICY AND RESOURCE ASSESSMENT: PARTS II AND III

REFS A. STATE 041169, B. STATE 038356, C. STATE 038338

1. II. RESOURCES ASSESSMENT.

POLITICAL. U.S. STAFF - AS EMPHASIZED AT OUTSET OF PART I, OVERALL U.S. INTERESTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA ARE ROOTED MAINLY ON POLITICAL AND SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS. THUS, THE EMBASSY MUST PLACE A HIGH PRIORITY ON ITS POLITICAL SECTION RESOURCES. THE PRESENT U.S. STAFF OF TWO POLITICAL OFFICERS AND ONE SECRETARY IS ADEQUATE TO MEET PROJECTED NEEDS AND PROVIDE SUFFICIENT FLEXIBILITY TO PERMIT RATIONAL WORK HOURS AND LEAVE. THE SECOND OFFICER IN THE SECTION CAN SERVE AS A DESIRABLE TRAINING POSITION FOR AN O-6, ALTHOUGH THE CURRENT INCUMBENT IS AN O-5. THE POLITICAL SECTION OPERATES UNDER A CONSTANT HANDICAP OF RESTRICTED CONTACT WITH KEY FIGURES IN THE PARTY-STATE HEIRARCHY. ITS REPORTING, THEREFORE, REQUIRES CAREFUL SUBJECTIVE ANALYSIS. THE SECTION'S BRAOD COVERAGE OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK POLITICAL SCENE IS LARGELY BASED ON INFORMATION FROM SECONDARY SOURCES. THIS MODUS OPERANDI IS TIME-CONSUMING AND EXACTING. WE DO NOT RECOMMEND ANY INCREASE IN U.S. STAFFING, BUT WE CONSIDER THE POLITICAL SECTION MINIMALLY
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STAFFED. AT PRESENT, THE TWO POLITICAL OFFICERS HAVE HARDLY ANY TIME FOR WITHIN-COUNTRY TRAVEL TO VISIT REGIONAL AND DISTRICT AREAS. IN THE CURRENT POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE, THIS IS FORTUNATELY OF NO MORE THAN MARGINAL IMPORTANCE. WE WOULD ANTICIPATE, HOWEVER, THAT IN THE CASE OF IMPROVED BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS AND INCREASED ACCESS TO CZECHOSLOVAK OFFICIALS, MORE TIME FOR TRAVEL WOULD BE REQUIRED. IT WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO BE MET THROUGH SHARED-TIME

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ASSISTANCE FROM AN OFFICER ASSIGNED TO ANOTHER SECTION SUCH AS
ECON/COMMERCIAL OR CONSULAR.

2. FSLE STAFF - THE ONLY LOCAL EMPLOYEE IN THE POLITICAL SECTION
IS THE EMBASSY TRANSLATOR, WHOSE FUNCTION IS DEEMED ESSENTIAL
AND SERVES EMBASSY-WIDE PURPOSES.

3. ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL. U.S. STAFF - ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL SECTION
RESOURCES ARE ALSO OF KEY SIGNIFICANCE IN HELPING TO GUIDE U.S.
POLICY TOWARD SOLUTIONS OF THE PIVOTAL CLAIMS/GOLD PROBLEM,
NEGOTIATION OF A LONG-TERM TRADE AGREEMENT WITH MFN AND
EXIM CREDITS, AND DEVELOPMENT OF BILATERAL ECONOMIC TIES IN GENERAL.
THE U.S. STAFF PRESENTLY CONSISTS OF THREE OFFICERS AND ONE
SECRETARY. THESE RESOURCES ARE DEVOTED TO ECONOMIC REPORTING AND
ANALYSIS, TRADE PROMOTION, SPECIALIZED PROBLEMS (E.G. CIVIL AVIATION,
CIVIL SCIENCE, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, PUBLICATIONS PROCUREMENT) AND

PARTICIPATION IN OVERALL MISSION ACTIVITIES (E.G. "COUNTRY TEAM"
PROJECTS, VISITS OF NON-E/C AS WELL AS E/C AMERICANS).

4. PRESENT STAFFING ARRANGEMENTS (3 FSO'S , 1 FSS AND 3 FSL'S)
ARE ADEQUATE FOR OUR PRESENT OBJECTIVES AND PROPERLY ORGANIZED.
THE 1974 DECISION TO ESTABLISH SEPARATE E/C AND POL SECTIONS IN
PLACE OF THE PREVIOUS COMBINED POLEC SECTION HAS WORKED VERY WELL
IN ADVANCING OVERALL EMBASSY OBJECTIVES AND SHOULD BE RETAINED.
THE EMBASSY'S COMMERCIAL ACTION PLAN (CAP) IS PREDICTED ON
EXISTING STAFFING LEVELS AND ORGANIZATION AND NO CHANGES ARE
RECOMMEND TO MEET PRESENT FUNCTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

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5. FSLE STAFF - THE SECTION HAS THREE FLS, EMPLOYEES ONE OF WHOM
IS ENTIRELY COMMITTED TO THE PUBLICATIONS-PROCUREMENT SUBFUNCTION.
THIS ACTIVITY NEED NOT BE IN THE E/C SECTION; IT COULD BE AS EASILY
LOCATED IN THE POL OR ADMIN SECTION. HOWEVER, INASMUCH AS IT DEMANDS
FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT AND IS HIGHLY REGARDED IN THE DEPARTMENT
FOR ITS CONTRIBUTION, WE WOULD NOT RECOMMEND ITS ELIMINATION.

6. THE OTHER TWO EMPLOYEES ARE A SENIOR (FSLE-1) COMMERCIAL
SPECIALIST AND AND E/C CLERK. WE REGARD THESE TO REPRESENT OUR
MINIMUM STAFFING REQUIREMENTS AND RECOMMEND NO CHANGE AT PRESENT.

7. E/C: OTHER AGENCY PROGRAMS AND RESOURCE LEVELS.
THE EMBASSY SHARES THE SERVICES OF THE AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE
RESIDENT IN VIENNA WITH WMBASSIES VIENNA AND BUDAPEST. AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTS PRESENTLY ACCOUNT FOR OVER HALF OF THE U.S. EXPORTS TO
CZECHOSLOVAKIA, AND IDEALLY WE WOULD WELCOME HAVING A LARGER
SHARE OF THE AGATT'S TIME IN THE FORM OF MORE FREQUENT
PERIODIC VISITS. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT RECOMMEND ANY OTHER CHANGE
IN THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENT.

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8. CONSULAR. U.S. STAFF - THE CONSULAR SECTION HAS THREE
OFFICERS ROUGHLY DIVIDING TIME INTO AMERICAN SERVICES, VISAS, AND
FEDERAL BENEFITS SUBFUNCTIONS. THE VISA OFFICER SLOT SERVES AS
A TRAINING POSITION WITH THE INCUMBENT MOVING UP, IN ALTERNATE
YEARS, TO BECOME CHIEF OF THE SECTION OR POLITICAL OFFICER.
THIS OFFICER ALSO ROUTINELY ASSISTS THE POLITICAL SECTION DURING
PEAK WORKLOAD PERIODS OR PERIODS OF LEAVE BY THE FULL-TIME POLITICAL
OFFICERS. WE DO NOT RECOMMEND ANY CHANGE IN STAFFING AT PRESENT.

9. FSLE STAFF - PRESENT FSLE STAFFING CONSISTS OF SEVEN
LOCAL EMPLOYEES, ASSIGNED AS FOLLOWS: IV-1, NIV-3, W/W-1;
FED. BENEFITS-1; RECEP/PPT-1. WE REGARD THESE TO REPRESENT A
MINIMUM STAFFING PATTERN AT THIS TIME. WE ANTICIPATE HOWEVER,
THAT A FUTURE REOPENING OF THE BRATISLAVA CONSULATE GENERAL WOULD
SHIFT ENOUGH OF THE WORKLOAD CONCERNING SLOVAKIA TO PROMPT
TRANSFER OF AT LEAST ONE LOCAL POSITION FROM THE EMBASSY TO BRATISLAV
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MMO-01 EB-08 SCA-01 IO-13 INR-07 PM-04 CU-02
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----------291607Z 025638 /42
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2363

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10. ADMINISTRATION. U.S. STAFF - THERE ARE SEVEN U.S.
OFFICERS AS FOLLOWS: ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER; GENERAL
SERVICES OFFICER; SECURITY OFFICER; TWO C&R OFFICERS; AND
TWO TCU OFFICERS. THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER SUPERVISES B&F

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AND PERSONNEL FUNCTIONS WITHOUT INTERVENING SUPERVISORY AMERICAN POSITIONS. THE EMBASSY SHARES THE SERVICES OF A B&F OFFICER RESIDENT IN VIENNA WITH EMBASSIES BUDAPEST, BUCHAREST, AND SOFIA. THE GENERAL SERVICES OFFICER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINENCE OF TWO GOVERNMENT OWNED PROPERTIES WHICH INCLUDE 22 RESIDENTIAL UNITS AND THE CHANCERY, AS WELL AS EIGHT RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES UNDER SHORT-TERM LEASE.

11. THE SECURITY OFFICERS HANDLES ALL ASPECTS OF POST SECURITY, BUT MUCH OF HIS TIME IS REQUIRED FOR THE TECHNICAL FUNCTIONS OF ANEASTERN EUROPEAN POST. IN THE SECURITY AREA WE HAVE AN MSG DETACHMENT CONSISTING OF ONE NCOIC AND SIX WATCHSTANDERS. AT PRESENT WE HAVE NO RESIDENT SEABEE, BUT THE POST IS PRESENTLY CONSIDERING A STRONG JUSTIFICATION PREPARED BY THE RSO FOR SUCH A POSITION.

12. THE C&R UNIT HAS A TRADITIONAL WORKLOAD FOR SUCH AN OPERATION BUT IS MORE BURDENED THAN USUAL IN PRAGUE BY HANDLING OF MATERIAL NORMALLY TAKEN CARE OF BY LOCAL EMPLOYEES.

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13. THE POST DOES NOT RECOMMEND ANY CHANGE IN PRESENT ADMIN STAFFING,

EXCEPT FOR ADDITION, AS SOON AS THE DEPARTMENT WILL APPROVE, OF A U.S. ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/SECRETARY POSITION TO ASSIST WITH OFFICE MANAGEMENT AND PERFORM CLASSIFIED TYPING FOR THE U.S. OFFICERS OF BOTH ADMINISTRATIVE AND CONSULAR SECTIONS. BECAUSE OF THE BASICALLY HOSTILE POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT IN PRAGUE, THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER CAN NEVER BE ENTIRELY SURE OF THE RELIABILITY OF HIS LARGE CONTINGENT OF LOCAL EMPLOYEES.
WE BELIEVE THIS PROBLEM, TOO, COULD BE MET DECISIVELY BY THE ADDITION OF AN AMERICAN ADMIN ASST./SECRETARY.

14. FSLE STAFFING- FSLE STAFFING - THERE ARE 29 LOCAL EMPLOYEES IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION. OF THESE FOUR ARE IN B&F, 1 IN C&R (TELEPHONE OPERATOR), 1 IN PERSONNEL, 2 IN GENERAL SERVICES SECTION. OF THE LATTER, 3 ARE DRIVERS, TWO MECHANICS, TWO IN INVENTORY CONTROL, ONE IN PROCUREMENT AND THE REMAINDER IN BUILDINGS MAINTENANCE. WE DO NOT RECOMMEND ANY CHANGE IN THE PRESENT STAFF.

15. III. STATE PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS.

REPROGRAMMING. WE BELIEVE EMBASSY RESOURCES ARE PRESENTLY FOCUSED TO THE MAXIMUM ON OUR PRIORITY OBJECTIVES. ACCORDINGLY WE THINK NO REPROGRAMMING IS FEASIBLE OR DESIRABLE IN ANY FUNCTION.

16. INCREASES/DECREASES. IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE ADMINISTRATIVE SECTION BE INCREASED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BY ONE

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FSSO ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT/SECRETARY, AS DESCRIBED ABOVE.
IN THIS EVENT, WE WOULD ALSO RECOMMEND A CORRESPONDING DECREASE
IN THE FSLE STRENGTH OF THE SECTION.

17. LOWER PRIORITY POSITIONS. SINCE THERE ARE 21 STATE
DIRECT AMERICAN POSITIONS IN THE EMBASSY (17 OFFICERS AND
FOUR STAFF), WE SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING AS THE LOWEST PRIORITY
POSITIONS, WHICH WE ARE REQUIRED TO IDENTIFY: AMERICAN - POSITION
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NO. 33-041, CONSULAR OFFICER, FSR-05; FSL-POSITION NO. LS-22,
CARPENTER, FSL-5.

18. MISSION STAFFING CHART

CURRENT FY-77

	AMER OFFS	AMER STAFF	FSL PROFES.	FSL STAFF
STATE	15	4	11	29
EXECUTIVE	2	2		1
POLITICAL	2	1	1	
ECON/COMM	3	1	2	1
CONSULAR	3		3	4
ADMIN	7		5	24
COMM	4			
SECURITY	1			
MSG	7			
REGIONAL:				
(B&F OFFICER RESIDENT VIENNA SERVICES PRAGUE AND THREE OTHER EE CAPITALS.)				
(AGATT RESIDENT VIENNA SERVICES PRAGUE, BUDAPEST AND VIENNA.)				
USIS	2	1	1	6

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DOD 2 3 2

19. PROJECTED FY-79

	AMER OFFS	AMER STAFF	FSL PROFES.	FSL STAFF
STATE	17	5	11	29
EXECUTIVE	2	2		
POLITICAL	2	1	1	
ECON/COMM	3	1	2	1
CONSULAR	3		3	4
ADMIN	7	1	5	24
COMM	4			
SECURITY	1			
MSG	7			
SEABEE	1			

REGIONAL: (SEE PARA 18 ABOVE)

B&F

AGATT

USIS 2 1 1 6

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
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TAGS: AMGT, PFOR, CZ, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/588f01b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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